

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 30, 2006 LB 87

little more about it and find out why that land became available so cheaply. You all don't know this, so you look down your nose at us. You consider us inferior. You try to keep our children ignorant so that we can be preyed upon and made to feel that since black people have never done anything, black people cannot do anything, and we cannot do anything; that everything was handed to us. We played a stronger role in the history of this country than a lot of your relatives and ancestors did. Benedict Arnold was a white man, not a black man. So when that bill comes out here, you all get ready, because the train is coming, and I'm going to be the engineer. And like Casey Jones, I'll die with the throttle in my hand, because that train is going to go full-bore, and those iron wheels will be striking fire as it moves down that track. We're going to learn some things during that debate, and none of those white operations is blameless, not the coalition from west Omaha, not the Omaha Public School system. There are almost unbearable issues that we as black people have to confront. While we watch the Omaha Public Schools on the left hand say that those Ku Klux Klanners out in west Omaha are racists, we agree. But the Ku Klux Klanners out in west Omaha point to the OPS and say, so are you, which is true. There is a sickening commercial that had been running...and I'm still on my first amendment, because I need a little time. Then I'm going to pull the others. I just want people to get ready and know what kind of session this is going to be. They talk about how the schools are becoming more segregated, how segregation is wrong, and not just that, it's illegal. And when you listen to that you say, aha! At last somebody is calling OPS to task for the segregation that they have engaged in since the beginning, which they recently, in a matter of...terms of a few years, floated a \$250 million bond issue for the expressed purpose of resegregating, formally and officially, the public schools in Omaha, under a so-called neighborhood school proposal, whereby they superimpose residential...a school system on a residentially segregated area of the city. So listening to that commercial you say, aha, the Omaha Public Schools are getting theirs. Then you listen a little further and find out that the commercial is in favor...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.